

Union - Fire -

To consist of a number not to exceed fifty members, elect

January the 7th, 18

PREAMBLE

WE the undersigned, hereby pledged in the most perfect faith and fellowship to each other, do associate for the more effectual security and preservation of the property and effects of our fellow members, and of the citizens in general, when in danger by fire. And that we may carry these our intentions the more fully into effect,

We covenant and agree to and with each other as follows, viz.

- I. **T**HAT the president and clerk shall be appointed by ballot at the first general meeting after these rules are adopted, and be rechosen annually from that period. That there be *quarterly* meetings held through the year, viz. on the *first Tuesday* in *January*, the *first Tuesday* in *April*, the *first* in *July*, and the *first* in *October*.
- II. That each member shall constantly keep in good order *two* good leather buckets, or wooden ones if leather buckets cannot be procured, containing *two* gallons each, and *two* bags to contain *four* bushels each, to be number'd 1 and 2, and mark'd with the initials of his christian name and his surname at full length, which shall be kept in the most convenient place in his dwelling house, under the penalty of *five shillings* for each default.
- III. That upon notice of fire each member shall immediately repair with his buckets and bags to the dwelling-house, store or shop, of any of the members of this society most endanger'd, and shall use his best endeavours as well to extinguish the fire as to remove and secure the goods and effects of the owner, and follow his direction in carrying them to such place or places as he shall appoint.
- IV. That in case a fire shall happen when *two* or *more* of the members of this society shall be in danger then we will divide ourselves for each others assistance as necessity shall require.
- V. That when any member shall remove to any new habitation, store or shop, he shall inform the clerk thereof, and each member as well as the clerk shall provide himself with a list of the names of all members of this society, the places of their respective abodes, store or shop, and shall produce the same at every quarterly meeting, under the penalty of *one shilling*.
- VI. That if after the number shall be compleated to *fifty*, any person shall apply to become a member, such application shall be taken into consideration at the *next* general meeting, and if there shall be no one dissenting voice or vote, (which shall be proved by ballot) such person or persons shall be admitted to this society.
- VII. That if any member of this society shall make default in appearance at the quarterly meetings or any specified time to be notified, (or within one hour after) he shall pay a fine of *one shilling* and *three pence*.
- VIII. That every member who shall absent himself *twelve* months from the society, being in the city at the times of meeting and in health, or neglect these or any other articles agreed on by this society, and refuse to pay the penalty annexed, when demanded by the clerk—shall cease to be a member.
- IX. That if any member shall loose his buckets or bags in time of fire his loss shall be repair'd by the society, provided he make his request and notification to the clerk within *seven* days after the loss happens.

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XI. That the clerk visit the dwelling of each member once every quarter, and observe whether the buckets and bags are in good order and in a proper place, and receive any fines that may arise from the breach of any article agreed on by the society and account with them for the same. He is also to collect and settle the expences of each meeting, and to be careful that every member be notified *three* days at least before every quarterly meeting, under the penalty of *five shillings*.

XII. That the clerk may not be at the expence of stationary, messengers, &c. &c. the sum of *ten pounds* per annum will be allow'd by the society for the purchase of these articles, but no greater sum.

XIII. That a watch-word be agreed on whereby to know each other in the night-time, which shall continue until the society see cause to change the same; and shall not be disclosed to any person who is not a member.

XIV. That in order to pay the expences that may be incurred by the society at any of the meetings, every person becoming a member, by subscribing his name to the list, is to pay the sum of *two shillings* and *six pence*, which shall be deposited in the hands of the clerk; and when the sum so collected shall be expended, a second subscription shall be raised, which shall be repeated as often as occasion may require for that purpose.

XV. That should any dispute arise in the society, relating to the construction of any of the articles herein contained, or may be hereafter annexed, it shall be decided by the majority of the members then present.

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- X. That the business and duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of all the proceedings at the meetings; and at the annual meeting agreed on in the first article, when a new clerk shall be chosen, the former one shall deliver up all books, papers and stock, then belonging to the society, to the person that shall be so chosen to succeed him in office, who shall serve as clerk for the ensuing year, under the penalty of *twenty shillings*.

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